Carthage Public Library District

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PRESS RELEASE

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CARTHAGE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATION APPROVED

The Carthage Public Library District is excited to announce that their application for a Public Library Construction Act Grant to construct a new library building has been approved! This is a matching grant, with the State paying 51.19% of the costs. The Library has been assured that the funds have been appropriated and are available, and will be released when the local cost share has been secured.

The estimated cost for the entire project is $2,459,000. The grant would cover slightly over half of that amount or $1,258, 863; the local cost share is $1,200,137, and the library has already started working toward that goal. The community has until June 30, 2021 to raise the funds.

The plan is to build a 10,660 square feet one-story, easily accessible building on land currently owned by Prairieland Investment Group LLC at First and Center Streets in Carthage. The Library Board has been working with Library Building Consultant, Dr. Fred Schlipf and *apaceDesign Architects + Engineers* from Peoria on the building design and floor plans. Included in the plans are a large program/meeting space that could also be used by community groups, a drive up book return and pickup window, two study rooms, public access computers, and ample seating with electrical outlets throughout the building to help keep up-to-date with the ever-changing use of technology.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to bring almost $1.26 million dollars of grant funds into our community,” states John Dittmer, president of the Library Board of Trustees.  “We realize that raising our $1.2 million share will be a challenge, and we will need the community’s support.  The Board has spent over eight years evaluating our options and applying for grant funding.  We feel extremely fortunate to receive this grant and will work diligently for the project until the doors are opened.  These new facilities will allow us to continue to provide the community with outstanding library services.”

The Carthage Public Library District serves the entire Elementary School District, including Burnside, Ferris, Bentley, Denver and the surrounding rural areas.

The Board will be launching a capital fundraising campaign and is seeking community volunteers to serve on the fundraising committee. To volunteer, or for more information, contact the Carthage Public Library District at 217-357-3232 or email cartlib@mtcnow.net.